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subject for *Macmillan's Science Monographs.* The author distinctly says that his volume is not intended to be a text-book, nor is it intended to summarize existing knowledge in the branches of terrestrial magnetism with which it deals. Dr. Chree's object is to give an account of his own original work, "referring to the work of others only so far as is necessary for intelligibility." Facts, or, as the author frankly states, "supposed facts," and not theories as to the origin of magnetic changes are dealt with. In the opinion of the author, theorizing is less likely to be of advantage in the present stage of study than is the extension of positive knowledge. All this is very refreshing and delightfully frank as a statement of Dr. Chree's point of view in writing the volume. The book, while thus somewhat limited in the field which it is designed to cover, will, we feel sure, prove very welcome to all who are interested in this important subject.

R. DeC. Ward.

GENERAL

Distribution and Origin of Life in America. By Robert Francis Scharff. xvi and 497 pp. Maps, index. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1912. $3. 9 x 6.

Dr. Scharff has failed to make interesting this extremely valuable volume upon a subject which in itself must prove of the utmost interest to geographers. In such work as this we find our field widened, the acre of to-day, no matter the method of earth-science whereby we study it, becomes a more thrilling space when we have unfolded from the mere acre the history of the paleoarchaic continent of which it may be but the sole survival. The author has already performed similar service for the Eurasian land-mass. In this volume he restores not one but several continental arrangements of land-mass of which the survival may through his careful method of research be detected in one or the other of the Americas of our present knowledge. It is not easy to follow the argument; the mass of detail is very great, its magnitude is a triumph of research, but in this work its treatment is so minutely in detail that it calls for very close observation to dig out the broad conclusions of the study. It was probably necessary to provide for all such criticism of the argument as might be foreseen by the author. It is clear that he felt an obligation to dissect the bearing of each of the data amounting to thousands which he has here assembled. Working geographers would find richer pleasure in this highly important book if its geographical results had been presented with somewhat more commanding prominence and the minute details of zoological proof had less dominated the foreground. The work is truly encyclopedic as a storehouse of the facts of the zoogeography of the Americas and we look to see its conclusions held fundamental in future treatises upon the ancient geography of the Western World.

William Churchill.

Vergleichende Mond- und Erdkunde. Von Dr. Siegmund Günther. Heft 37, Die Wissenschaft, Sammlung naturwiss. und math. Monographen. xi and 193. Ills., index. Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn, Braunschweig, 1911. 5 mks. 8½ x 5½.

Whenever Günther takes up his pen to write about a subject in geophysics or geography, one may be sure to get the very best. In this volume, being a comparative history of moon and earth, he analyzes, in the first chapter, the various views of classic antiquity in regard to their mutual relationship, from the time of Anaxagoras (500-428 B. C.), who was among the first to pronounce a material unity of the earth, sun, moon and all the other heavenly bodies, down to the present day. The invention of the telescope and spectroscope has made it now an undisputed certainty that the earth and her satellite are of common origin, having the same composition and features. To Galileo, "who has brought the stars nearer to us," and to Kepler, whose posthumous work "Dream of the Moon" (1634) another Günther (L. Günther, Kepler's "Traum vom Monde," 1898) has made popular, the author devotes a special chapter. He calls these two heroes of science by right "the founders of a scientific topography of the moon and the founders of comparative selenography and geography." During